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#### **GGC Members:**

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## **For Immediate Release:**

### **Marketing Freedom for Grain Farmers Act moves to Senate**

**(Monday, November 28, 2011, Winnipeg, MB)** – From the Grain Growers of Canada’s Annual General Meeting in Winnipeg today, Stephen Vandervalk, President of the Grain Growers of Canada remarks on the expected third reading passage of the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) legislation, “Now that we are one step closer to marketing freedom, what farmers need is the bill’s speedy passage in the Senate,” says Vandervalk. “Farmers need certainty before Christmas, so they can lock in contracts for next year’s harvest. This will only be ensured when these changes have been passed by the Senate.”

The Grain Growers of Canada continues to call for calm and useful dialogue between all parties. “On my own farm, sometimes the Wheat Board has made money for me and some years it has lost money. But at the end of the day, farmers who want to market their own wheat and barley need to have the freedom to do so – as they do in all other parts of Canada,” says Vandervalk. “That is why we support the *Marketing Freedom for Grain Farmers Act*.”

Progress in technology and science have changed how producers’ farm and how they market their grain. “I now use a GPS on my tractor to save on input costs related to fertilizer and seed and also to help me farm in a more environmentally sustainable way with less tillage,” says Vandervalk. “So using today’s technology to market my wheat and barley makes sense to me. I already use my blackberry from the seat of my tractor, locking in prices for non-Board grains like canola, peas, lentils, oats and flax.”

The Canadian Wheat Board’s own survey shows that three quarters of farmers under 45 years of age do not support the current monopoly, showing the future of our industry wants change, “As a young farmer, I am personally looking forward to next year when I will have the freedom to choose where I sell my wheat,” says Vandervalk.

“Changes to the CWB will mean a new invigorated organization and we have spoken to people at the Board who are eager to start working in the new environment,” says Richard Phillips, Executive Director of the Grain Growers of Canada. “We are confident that with the CWB’s respected world-wide brand, a huge rolodex of sales contacts, experienced people in both rail and ocean freight, front line staff who work with farmers every day, and now with the five year guarantees the Government has on the plate with this new legislation, the Canadian Wheat Board has every opportunity to be successful.

The Grain Growers of Canada continues to look forward in its policy at its Annual General Meeting today, where its Board of Directors works on issues related to the ongoing Rail Service Review, funding of public research, and increasing access to new markets.

*Representing tens of thousands of successful wheat, durum, barley, canola, oat, corn, pea, lentil, rye and triticale farmers, the Grain Growers of Canada is well known as the national voice of Canadian grain farmers. Please visit [www.ggc-pgc.ca](http://www.ggc-pgc.ca).*

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#### **For more information:**

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